



A. Accessibility Design Policy and Review Process

1. We have created 3 levels of accessibility within the Facility Standards: bronze, silver and gold . . . each with its own degree of accommodation and associated probable life cycle cost impact of our “universal design” approach.

The thrust of this policy will be to encourage a barrier free environment that will benefit all people: the disabled for life, infants, children, seniors, the temporarily injured, etc. Such an environment should not be perceived as unusual or burdensome, but rather simply another aspect of our cultural fabric needing positive integration. We will challenge the design teams to express society’s aspiration and design so that all, including the disabled, can experience community activity.

Examples of the 3 categories of accommodation will include the following rating for each design opportunity within City projects:

- a) **BRONZE:** Meets 1998 Washington State Accessibility Code Requirements (The City of Seattle does not have separate guidelines because this code exceeds the January 26, 1992 ADA requirements.)
 - b) **SILVER:** Sensitively integrates the accommodating design element in a manner that provides for the disabled individual and a partner or in some cases the entire family without bringing special attention to the disabled individuals.
 - c) **GOLD:** Seamless design solutions that are formed around an accessible environment at the core of the design solution.
2. A focus group will be established for each project to review and advise the design teams’ work at critical junctures during the design process. One, two hour review meeting at 75% Schematics, 50% Design Development and 50% Construction Documents will adequately maintain communication and should not disrupt the design process.

The focus group will be a combination of several City employees with accessibility expertise from the Seattle community. The accessibility rating for all projects shall be rated by the Focus Group.

B. Accessibility Provisions

Applicable codes are the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), and the Washington State Uniform Building Code Requirements for Barrier-Free Accessibility effective July 26, 1992. Both are applicable; the most stringent controls. The access improvements addressed in the appendix to ADA are also adopted by the City; the appendix items are not optional.

In addition to the code requirements, for any new construction or major remodel, the City requires:

- 1) An automatic door at the principal entrance;
- 2) An elevator in all buildings of more than one story. (A wheelchair lift on a stairway is not an acceptable alternative;)
- 3) Elevator cab floor and door buttons and lobby call buttons shall be centered 36 inches above the floor. The panel of buttons should be horizontal whenever feasible. When not feasible,



the button panel shall be mounted with buttons as close to 36 inches above the floor as possible.

Access features are to be incorporated into the project budget and design. The cost of accessible signage should be incorporated into the project budget. The City has some uniform signage designs.

End of Appendix 1 - J